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*Practice limited to Federal Agencies

July 30, 2004

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AUG 04 2004
Technology Center 2100

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Art Unit 2114
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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No.: 09/918,875; Filed: July 31, 2001
For: **Fault Tolerant Storage System And Method Using A Network Of Servers (as amended)**
Inventors: TORMASOV *et al.*
Our Ref: 2230.0070001/MBR/GSB (as amended)

Sir:

In reply to the Final Office Action dated **July 15, 2004**, transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; and
2. One return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
July 30, 2004
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



George S. Bardmesser
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,020

MBR/GSB:krh
Enclosure

293990v1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Tomasov *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/918,875

Filed: July 31, 2001

For: **FAULT TOLERANT STORAGE
SYSTEM AND METHOD USING
A NETWORK OF SERVERS (as
amended)**

Confirmation No.: 2443

Art Unit: 2114

Examiner: BONURA, Tim

Atty. Docket: 2230.0070001/MBR/GSB
(as amended)

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In reply to the Final Office Action dated **July 15, 2004**, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor(including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.